



# PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base  
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**439th AW MISSION:** Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

## Construction modernizes base

Sixty five years ago last month the front page headline of The New York Times blazed, "GERMAN ARMY ATTACKS POLAND"...HITLER WON'T HALT ATTACK ON POLES." Chicopee Mayor Antony Stonina, a Polish immigrant enraged that his native land was under attack, had been successful in convincing the Secretary of War that Chicopee should "become an important link in the chain of East Coast defense."

### Commentary

Within a month of the attack on Poland, construction equipment began arriving on the tobacco fields that would

eventually become Westover Air Force Base. Today, still playing a major role in our nation's defense, Westover is in need of a major facelift.

We pursued a very aggressive repair and construction agenda this year - dollar-wise, more than any year since this wing's conversion to the C-5 in 1987. Unfortunately, as of press time some of the projects we had counted on, such as the fitness center refurbishment, were ultimately not funded for Fiscal Year 2004. They will move to the top of our list for next year. Despite that setback, we had a very successful year. Here's a condensed look at what has occurred and what you will see on base within a year.

**Projects under way:** A groundbreaking ceremony was held last month for the new 21,300-square foot security forces building. Completion date is scheduled for the fall of 2005. The members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron are currently housed in one of the oldest buildings on base. Bldg. 1520 was the first base fire station built in 1941 for \$209,733.

Approval has been granted for a new two-stall fire station located near the base contracting building. The station will house two firefighting crews and will shave critical minutes off our response time to aircraft emergencies.

The Industrial Gate on Westover Road will receive a complete makeover in the upcoming months. Plans call for a new road, new gatehouse, vehicle inspection facility and visitor center. Due to money constraints, this project will not encompass all our plans for the Industrial Gate, but it will be a major improvement.

**Demolition projects:** The Special Projects Building, commonly referred to as P-1900, was demolished in August. Historically, this facility housed the highly classified map-making laboratories for the Strategic Air Command and was

see **PROJECTS** continued on next page 3



**Col. Dana S. Marsh**

439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group commander

## Briefs

### Resources council seeks volunteer members

Westover's Human Resources Development Council is looking for volunteers to join one of their Recruiting, Retention, Mentoring or Heritage subcommittees. The HRDC works to improve reservist's concerns, such as diversity, career development, promotion opportunities and quality of life issues.

"We are resurrecting the HRDC and each member will be hearing more about the program in the near future and how it will help to enhance their Air Force Reserve experience," said Col. James R. Hosey Jr., HRDC's chairman and the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander.

All ranks are encouraged to apply and should contact Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood at Ext. 2876 for more information.

### Correction

In the September *Patriot*, a photo caption mentioned the Galaxy Community Council as the sponsors of the fireworks display held at the base Aug. 14.

The 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron members organized and assisted with the display, which lasted for more than 45 minutes and featured a dazzling grand finale. The squadron's effort was a tribute to the Westover's reservists and their families and included a cookout and a performance by the Marshall Tucker Band.

The Galaxy Community Council members worked throughout the air show weekend as well, handling such duties as concessions, the Warbirds, and the VIP booth.

### Cover photo

**UP THE WALL - Members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron climb an obstacle at the Dogpatch training area at Westover. They are, from left, Senior Airman Jason Aponte, Airman 1st Class Chrys Guilbeaux, Tech. Sgt. James Lecuyer, Airman 1st Class Dane Beckford, and Airman Basic Cory Copeland.**

**The services members took part in a team-building exercise during the September A UTA.**

- photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

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# Groundbreaking ushers in era for security forces

## *New building to bring squadron under one roof*

Article and photo  
by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A massive new building to house the 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron will join the Patriot Avenue scenery next year.

Congressional and base officials pitched their shovels into the dirt Sept. 7 to officially get the groundbreaking under way for the 21,000-square foot building, which will bring all of the functions of the 439<sup>th</sup> SFS under one roof.

SFS members are now set up in Bldg. 1520, base supply and Hangar 5. "This consolidate all our functions under one roof," said Maj. Wesley Thiel, chief of security forces. "The buildings we have now don't work for what we need them to do. They're

old."

For Robert Durand, chief of police services at Westover, the building is a long overdue improvement for the 140-member squadron.

"It integrates everything we have — our training division, our operations, our combat arms training folks," Mr. Durand said. "We're (now) separated into three areas. Moving into this building is going to propel us with technical advances ... we're looking to spread out and have some great things happen out of here."

Congressman John Oliver (D-Amherst), called the addition of the building another asset for the base.

"For Westover to operate at the superior level that it's expected to operate at, we



**FUTURE HEADQUARTERS** - An artist's rendition shows the size of the new security forces building. The 21,325-square foot building is scheduled to be completed by October 2005. It will be nearly twice the size of the present headquarters located in Bldg. 1520 on Hangar Avenue.



**DIGGING IT** - Base and local officials lift their shovels to officially signal the groundbreaking of the new security forces headquarters Sept. 7. From left are, Maj. Wesley Thiel, chief of security forces, 439<sup>th</sup> SFS; Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Army Corps of Engineers; John H. Murphy, President, Eastern General Contractors, Congressman John Oliver, (D-Amherst); Congressman Richard Neal, (D-Springfield); Chicopee Mayor Richard Goyette, Col. Michael E. Swaney, AFRC director of security forces; and Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander.

need a first-class security force, (and) so Congressman Neal and I are proud that we could help provide our men and women with a state-of-the-art facility designed to serve their exact mission," he said. "This is a very important component of a very important base in America," Congressman Neal added.

Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, echoed the senators' comments. "Our security forces need every facility they can get their hands on — to protect this base, and, to of course protect the nation," he said. "This building will help us do that ... it also helps Westover to continue our place as one of the crown jewels of the Air Force Reserve Command, and one of the more capable installations in the northeast."

Leroy Clink, base civil engineer, said no decision had been made on what the future would be for Bldg. 1520. The headquarters' past is part of Westover's oldest history. Located across from the Base Hangar, it also housed the base fire department and was constructed in 1940. Bldg. 1520 also served as a jail at the base for several years.

### PROJECTS continued from page 2

instrumental in delivering intelligence used by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Curtis LeMay during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Despite its historical significance, the building was beyond cost-economical repair. There are no plans for immediate use of this location.

We have received funding to construct an addition to the medical facility to house bioenvironmental services. The bioenvironmental staff work in the base's old dental clinic which will be demolished.

We are anticipating funds to demolish the heat plant, built in 1941. In 2002 the heat plant was decommissioned when individual boilers were installed on buildings previously serviced by this former coal burning plant.

**Future projects:** The DC Hangar will receive an extensive interior and exterior renovation. The dining hall will be expanded and repairs made to the existing facility. Finance will also receive a renovation and expansion. At press time our request for construction money for the fitness center was not approved.

**Completed projects:** More than \$25 million has been spent on projects this year, many of which may be unnoticeable, but are vital to the upkeep of our facilities. Some of the more eye-catching projects completed in the last year are the Family Campground (FAMCAMP), a complete facility with sites for trailers, tents and a bathhouse; a 60-slot vehicle storage lot; Patriot Trail, a 6/10-mile nature path between the Westover Club and the FamCamp; and the new Marine Forces Reserve Center.

# Medical specialist witnesses stress, panorama of war

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Master Sgt. Nancy C. Clegg of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron returned home in September after 90 days at an Iraqi air base where she saw the highs and lows of the war on terror.

For her, the uprising in Iraq was one of startling contrasts. Her tour included steak and lobster on Sundays, followed by mortar attacks at dawn. She has witnessed the mental strain of living under attacks by an unseen enemy and also the unique brotherhood of frontline troops.

An everyday job hazard for Sergeant Clegg and other medical specialists at Balad Air Base, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, was the sound of incoming rockets followed by the piercing "alarm red" siren. The siren could keep them down on the ground for hours, waiting for the "yellow alert." The all clear siren signaled the assignment of teams to sweep the area for unexploded ordnance.

A daily routine of sirens, rockets and UXO sweeps made for heavy stress even before taking into account the heat, dust and long hours. All together, they added weight to Sergeant Clegg's job as first sergeant to younger and less experienced airmen trying to deal with life in a combat zone.

The hardships of war were tempered by rewarding experiences with wounded and injured patients who were being processed for aeromedical evacuation from the war zone. Sergeant Clegg said she witnessed the courage and idealism of troops fighting at the cutting edge of the war on terror.

A few days before returning home, she

described some experiences of her tour by phone from Balad Air Base.

"The best part is the patients. You hold one-on-one conversations. You find out about their families, their home life, their injuries, how they feel about this place," she said.

"A lot of patients have no problems being here. A lot don't even want to be medevaced out. They want to be back with their unit. Some have had enough and want to leave. Nine out of 10 don't want to leave their unit. They feel like they are leaving their families behind," she said.

During the months of June, July and August, she worked at the aeromedical staging facility at Balad where medical specialists moved more than 4,000 patients of all branches, wounded, injured and sick. They came from Najaf, Kirkut, Tikrit, Baghdad, Kuwait and other flashpoints throughout the AOR. Some arrived within hours of being under fire.

She carried liters and performed patient care, changed bandages, administered IVs and charted vital signs.

Upon arriving June 1, Sergeant Clegg was appointed first sergeant of the mostly active-duty Airmen of the 332<sup>nd</sup> CASF (Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility). Their mission was to hold patients for aeromedical evacuation on C-141s to Landstuhl Medical Center, outside Ramstein AB, Germany.

They operated a 50-bed staging facility in six large tents, with an overflow area of 30 beds. The tents were surrounded by tall concrete pillars called "Texas barriers" to protect against incoming rockets. They lived in tents surrounded by sandbags which had air conditioning when the generators were operating.

Washing was five-minute "combat showers" - turn on the water, soap up, turn off the water. Adding to the burden of shepherding less experienced Airmen was the stress of insurgent attacks launched from the flat farmland around Balad. A favorite



Courtesy photo

**WAR ZONE** - Master Sgt. Nancy C. Clegg, right foreground, assists in carrying a patient at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Clegg, a 439<sup>th</sup> AES reservist, deployed to Iraq for 90 days and returned in September.

practice of the insurgents is to set up a mortar at night with a timer.

"We're mortared every day," Sergeant Clegg said. Ten days before she was scheduled to come home from Iraq, she was walking into the door of the staging facility at 6 a.m. when she heard two loud booms.

"Two patients were outside. I told them they better come in until we find out what's going on. And then there were four more booms. Then the alarm went off," Sergeant Clegg said. They spent the next two hours on the ground. The weekend before an unexploded rocket hit the road in front of the medical specialists' tents. In June, rockets hit the Balad base exchange, killing three Americans. "I don't tell my family about it at home. This way they don't worry so much. When they talked about the BX on the news I tried to deny it, but my family knew better," Sergeant Clegg said.

## Exercises, inspections on tap for 439th AW

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following information covers many of the mobility exercises and inspections coming up for the 439th Airlift Wing.

Reservists with questions should contact their unit deployment monitors.

**Oct. 2-3 (A UTA)**  
Mobility Processing Exercise

**Nov. 1-7**  
439th Services IGX

**Nov. 4-7**  
439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Staff Assistance Visit

**2005**

**Jan. 7-8**  
439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron SAV

**Jan. 22-23**  
439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron SAV

**March 8-9**  
Savannah, Ga., ADVON  
Savannah deployment March 10-13

**April**  
439th Airlift Control Flight/AES IGX  
Dates to be determined

**July-August**  
Unit Compliance Inspection  
Health Services Inspection  
Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Visit  
Dates TBD

**Aug. 1-7**  
439th Civil Engineering Squadron Wing Staff IGX

**Oct. 1-2**  
Patriot Harvest/ability to survive and operate

Information courtesy Maj. Pat Ryan, executive officer, 439th AW



# Reservists provide medical aid in Chad, Niger

by Tech. Sgt. Chance Babin

926th Fighter Wing Public Affairs and 439th AW staff

**CAMP LOUMIA, Chad (AFPN)** - Two Westover medics were part of a team of Air Force Reserve command professionals who recently assisted in providing care to a central African nation.

Armed with sufficient medications, medical equipment and a surplus of enthusiasm and care, the team provided aid to the people of Chad as part of a humanitarian effort July 1 to 15.

Staff Sgt. Richard English, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medical technician, was one of two reservists from Westover who deployed to Chad. The other person was Lt. Col. Steven Johnson, an AMDS dentist.

The 13-person medical team deployed with a Marine Corps training team here in southeastern Chad. The AFRC contingent was composed of volunteers from nine different units including dentistry, optometry and general medicine. The Marines are training the Chadian military to maintain a rapid-reaction force.

"It was an experience of a lifetime - probably the highlight of my career so far," Sergeant English said. "We lived in the same mud hut with active-duty Marines. It was just amazing hearing their stories. They were so professional. To work with them just blew me away." Sergeant English and the other workers frequently applied intravenous life support to children in Chad who had malaria.

"When I was (deployed) in Peru we never had any life-threatening situations. In Chad, we saved some kids' lives. I would do this again in a second," Sergeant English said.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Chance Babin

**MEDICAL HELP** - Staff Sgt. Richard English, 439th AMDS medical technician, immunizes a Chadian girl while on a humanitarian mission here. The medical team saw more than 2,800 patients from 16 villages during the 15-day mission.

***"In Chad, we saved some kids' lives. I would do this again in a second."***

***-- Staff Sgt. Richard English, 439th AMDS medical technician***

People often die of preventable diseases caused by poor hygiene and a lack of basic medical care. During their stay in Chad, the medical team provided treatment for 2,800 residents of 16 villages around Loumia.

Another Westover reservist recently deployed to Camp Tondibiah, Niger. Capt. (Dr.) Steven Tittl, 439th AMDS optometrist, was part of a group of Air Force Reserve medics who treated more than 6,000 patients in the African nation.

The team deployed to Africa with Marines who were training Nigerian soldiers in basic infantry, as part of the Trans Sahel Counter Terrorism Initiative Mobile Training Team.

Although Niger's official language is French, the medics quickly found out the majority of their patients spoke Zarma, Housa or other regional dialects. This required translators with a broad knowledge of all the languages in the area.

"It would be practically impossible to do any type of quality care without them," said Maj. (Dr.) Keith Schlechte, a physician with the 85th Surgeon General at Keflavik, Iceland. "Their service is invaluable."

Besides the Nigerian translators, the Marines had two French translators assigned to their team. The day before the rest of the medical team got started, Doctor Tittl, saw more than 130 Nigerian soldiers for eye care from the unit the Marines are training. Marine Cpl. George Kelly, a French translator assigned to the Marine team, was Dr. Tittl's translator that day.

"It was satisfying to be able to fit quite a few members of the unit we're training," Corporal Kelly said. "It can only help their training and combat readiness after training is over."

"Corporal Kelly did a great job translating and helped support me with technical duties," Dr. Tittl said. "If it wasn't for him, we never would have been able to treat the entire company in one day." (Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)



Courtesy photo

**STRAPPED IN** - Second Lt. Christopher Watkins, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, checks on a patient while aboard a C-17 Globemaster III from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in September. The deployed lieutenant flew to Landstuhl Medical Center, Germany, with eight other patients.

# Officer's deployment includes tour of Saddam palace

## Mortars, chandeliers also form part of 90 days in Iraq

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Working out of a palace has its advantages, but for Maj. John Ryan the experience of living amid marble and chandeliers was tempered by the random crump of mortars during three months at Camp Victory, outside of Baghdad.

The grounds of one of Saddam Hussein's extravagant Presidential Palaces was home for Major Ryan, Westover financial management officer, from May to August, when he served at the Multinational Force Headquarters at Camp Victory. While managing hundreds of millions of dollars earmarked for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, he lived in a tent and worked in a spartanly furnished office. By contrast, his office was located next to a palace of gold fittings, spiral staircases and elaborate inlaid mosaics dedicated to the ego of Saddam Hussein.

***"You'd hear the mortar and then you'd hear the helicopters buzzing around."***

***-- Maj. John Ryan, deployed financial management officer***

Camp Victory is on the grounds of Al Faw Palace, built in the 1990s on the edge of an artificial lake in a land where water is precious. Along the lake Hussein built Roman-style villas for his cronies. He used the expansive grounds as a hunting and fishing getaway and planted orchards.

Major Ryan said it did not take him long to learn that Al Faw was not a storybook palace. He was up early in the morning jogging on a three-mile track around the lake when incoming mortar rounds prompted him to re-think his fitness routine.

Early morning and late night mortar attacks were a fact of life at Camp Victory. The insurgents' apparent tactic was to drive up in a flatbed truck, fire one to four rounds and flee. "You'd hear the mortar and then you'd hear the helicopters buzzing around," Major Ryan said.

While the mortars were poorly aimed, the random unpredictability of incoming rounds raised the stress level for Soldiers and Airmen who lived in tents surrounded by piled up sandbags. Mortars routinely fell close enough to feel the percussion. "At work, you appreciated having a roof over your head," the major said.

The frequency of mortar attacks

stepped up as insurgents responded to the court appearance of Saddam Hussein and the turn-over of power to the Iraqi interim government in June. The multinational force headquarters and the courtroom at Camp Victory made the area a favorite target. Also nearby was the headquarters of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Life at Camp Victory is without luxuries. People are issued a cot, but are expected to bring their own sleeping bag. There's a long waiting list to move from a tent to a trailer. The dining facility is in a trailer. Everyone wears body armor and carries 9-millimeter sidearms.

About 40 countries are represented in the multinational force, including British, Australians, Koreans and Poles. Major Ryan's job included helping to manage \$800 million to build Iraqi schools, water facilities, security, bridges and other infrastructure. He also served as the resource management representative at the Multinational Force Headquarters senior planning meetings to transfer sovereignty to Iraq. He earned a Joint Service Achievement Medal which recognized his contributions to "improving the living conditions and morale of the Iraqi people throughout the AOR."

"For all of us in resource management there was a sense of helping....it was an experience that I appreciated the opportunity to have," Major Ryan said.

The deployment to Camp Victory was



*Courtesy photo*

**ROYAL TOUR - Maj. John Ryan, Westover financial management officer, tours one of Saddam Hussein's Presidential Palaces, resplendent with hanging chandeliers and wide swaths of marble.**

his third assignment to a joint service command since 9/11. The major served at Central Command Headquarters at MacDill AFB, Fla. in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002. From February to September, 2003 he served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Major Ryan resides in Springfield and is employed as an auditor for the Connecticut Department of Revenue in Hartford, Conn.

**SHOULDER CARRY - Tech. Sgt. Edward L. Plant, 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, hoists his duffle bag onto his shoulder after arriving at Westover Sept. 12 following his deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Sergeant Plant and 12 other SFS reservists spent more than three months at Camp Delta working as corrections officers guarding prisoners in the war on terror. The security forces reservists were the first Air Force Reserve unit to support detainee operations at the camp. They left Westover in late May.**



*photo by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco*



# Former T-38 pilot is new wing inspector general

by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

A former Patriot Wing operations support squadron commander and training aircraft pilot took over as wing Inspector General in May.

Lt. Col. Patricia A. Evans has served in the Air Force for 24 years, including more than eight years on active duty. Born in Anchorage, Alaska, Colonel Evans began her Air Force career training as a pilot after graduating from American University in Washington D.C.

She is rated a senior pilot with experience flying the T-39 Sabreliner, A-37 Dragonfly, and most recently the T-38 Talon as a safety chase pilot at Edwards AFB, Calif. Colonel Evans came to Westover in No-

vember 2001 as an intelligence officer and was the 439th OSS commander prior to taking on the role of IG.

As wing IG, Colonel Evans is responsible for conducting inspections, reviewing complaints and addressing fraud, waste and abuse. By working independently to address these issues, the IG acts as a check to ensure that Air Force values can be maintained and the mission can be completed efficiently. As an objective third party, Colonel Evans is able to resolve problems



Colonel Evans

that may not be settled through the chain of command.

"We encourage everyone to use the chain of command," Colonel Evans said, "If the individual feels they have exhausted their resources within the chain of command we can help them resolve it. If the problem is systematic we can help prevent it from happening again."

"There are a lot of wonderful and professional people at Westover who genuinely want to help their people, but if they can't, then everyone has the right to come see me," Colonel Evans said.

She succeeded Lt. Col. Talivaldis I. Maidelis, a former C-123 navigator at Westover. The wing IG's office can be called at Ext. 2273 or DSN 589-2273.

## Medical facility changes services through January 2005

The 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medical facility has changed its hours effective until mid-January 2005. The following explains these changes in services for reservists.

Maj. Elaine Tucci is the full-time officer in charge at AMDS. Noncommissioned officer in charge is Senior Master Sgt. Al LeFave. The main phone number at the medical facility is Ext. 3565.

**Drug testing:** Unchanged; will continue at the 65 percent rate for any members on MPA or activation orders; minimal 7 days per month of testing. Point of contact: Tech Sgt. Jason Comeau

**Sick call:** No longer available. People on MPA or activation orders should see their Primary Care Manager (PCM) for care. Documentation of medical visits to PCM should be provided to the 439th AMDS.

**Physicals:** No longer available during the week. RCPHA physicals should be scheduled through Unit Medical Liaisons for UTAs.

**Immunizations:** Available during the week and on UTA weekends. POC: Tech. Sgt. Daniel Foye or Senior Airman Paul Driscoll

**Audiology:** Available during the week and on UTA weekends. Call AMDS to schedule.

POC: Master Sgt. Dale Edwards (AD tests); Master Sgt. Lisa Laudenslager (occupational tests)

**Optometry:** An optometry technician is available during the week. Optometrist and optometry tech are available on the UTA. Call AMDS to schedule week-day appointment with a technician. POC:

Sergeant Edwards

**Dental:** A dental technician is available during the week. Dentists and dental technicians are available on UTAs. POC: Tech. Sgt. Katie Kratochvil

**Laboratory:** Lab tech is available during the week and on UTAs; POC: Tech. Sgt. Dave Sala

**Tricare:** Support through the Hanscom AFB, Mass., Service Center. AMDS will handle out information packets but member will have to conduct business on line or talking to service reps on the phone.

Any member on active duty must enroll in Tricare and use a Tricare PCM for all care (initial assessment, treatment, referrals for specialists, referrals for PT, etc).

**Activations or pre-Deployments:** Pre-deployments screenings will continue. However, if a member needs to see a physician or dentist to clear medical issues, those providers will not generally be available until UTA.

Reservists need to project as far in advance as possible. Names should be e-mailed (preferably on an excel sheet with unit, name, and social security number) to

AMDS; POC: Major Tucci or Sergeant LeFave

**Deactivations or Post Deployments-** Coordinate post deployments with Sergeant LeFave. Most aspects of the post deployment health assessments can be accomplished during weekday duty hours.

However, the required face-to-face health assessment with a physician will have to be scheduled for the next time a physician is available (most often the next UTA). POC: Major Tucci or Sergeant LeFave

**Medical Extensions/MPA Medical Continuations/CMAS requests:** Members with medical issues must provide regular documentation and/or report any changes in their medical condition.

Members in these categories should work with Tech. Sgt. Darlene St. George or Major Tucci. POC: Sergeant St. George

**Line of Duty:** Reservists need to complete LODs in a timely manner. Report all illnesses or injuries to the AMDS. POC: Sergeant LeFave, Sergeant St. George or Major Tucci

## Health Net is new Tricare contractor

As of Sept. 1, 2004, the contractor for Tricare is Health Net.

Sierra Military is no longer the contractor for Tricare in the Northeast Region. Tricare has gone from 11 regions to three.

Westover reservists using the old

Sierra Military Enrollment Forms for enrolling in Tricare should discard those forms and use the new Health Net forms. These forms can be found at [www.healthnetfederalservices.com](http://www.healthnetfederalservices.com). These forms can be downloaded and printed.

# Chief Kudla says goodbye after 29 years at Westover

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Chief Master Sgt. George P. Kudla, administrator at the 439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron's medical facility, retired Sept. 30. The following words express his gratitude to the Patriot Wing as he wrapped up his 29-year career at Westover.*

**by Chief Master Sgt. George Kudla**  
439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Thank you to the men and women of Westover.

Based on my many years of experiences, there is no better place and no better people than at "good, old Westover." During my 29 years at this base, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with multitudes of people, all of whom exhibited a



**Chief Kudla**

strong sense of Westover pride and who maintained the philosophy that no job was too big and we can do it - not just as good as - but better than anyone else. This total professionalism continues to shine through every day in all that Westover accomplishes in support of our missions.

Since attaining the rank of chief in 1985, I have had the good fortune to know many other great Westover chiefs, both past and present. Working on the Chiefs' Council for the Family Day Picnics and the Great New England Air

Shows has provided opportunities to meet and greet all our members and their families. One of the highlights of these events for me is the kids and being able to give away some small toy or gift to try and make sure no one goes home empty-handed. The people assigned here are a "family" and it was with their love and support that I was able to make it through one of the darkest periods in my life, the death of my son, Chris, in 1989. No words can fully express the deep, heartfelt gratitude I feel to this day for being a part of Westover and the Air Force Reserve.

To the members of the 439th and 722nd Aeromedical Stagn Squadrons, and my own unit, the 439th AMDS, you



*Courtesy photo*

**NEW NCO - Then-Sgt. George P. Kudla receives his stripes from his commander in this picture from the early 1970s. Sergeant Kudla would rise through the ranks to chief master sergeant in 1985. Chief Kudla retired Sept. 30.**

gave me opportunities to grow with you through good times and bad and to enjoy, accept and appreciate all that our varied missions had to offer.

The best part for me and the one thing I will miss the most are the humanitarian missions to Central and South America. Being part of a true team effort - working to improve quality of life for so many through basic medical and dental care - is deeply gratifying. Seeing the children arriving for treatment or just to say "hi" to the American troops affirmed for me that this is what it was all about.

As I say goodbye to Westover, I thank all of you for your leadership, support, camaraderie, and friendship. Nobody does it better than you.

**GOOD LUCK -** From left, Ann Marten congratulates retiring Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier, and his wife, Jeanette, while Chief Master Sgt. John M. Missale, with wife Ellen, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Forrest D. Price, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron Sept. 12. Colonel Whittier retired with 12,600 hours flying military aircraft, including the C-5 and C-130 at Westover. Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander, also attended the retirement ceremony held in the Westover Conference Center.



*photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope*



## Patriot features new highlights column

The October *Patriot* is the first to feature this new highlights column. This section recognizes reservists and civilian workers in the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's 17 squadrons, as well as people in the Marines, Army and Navy reserve units assigned to Westover.

The highlights feature squadron news, to include members who are retiring and those who have recently joined or enlisted, and unit deployments. The public affairs staff seeks a name for this section. Anyone with a name idea may e-mail these to: Patriot.Editor@westover.af.mil

For more information, call PA at Ext. 3500.

## Reservist represents Patriot Wing in Texas

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A Patriot Wing noncommissioned officer recently attended the annual conference for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) as the ambassador for Westover.

**Tech. Sgt. Richard Garcia**, a 439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron family support technician, was among 10,000 Latin-Americans who attended the conference held in San Antonio, Texas, from July 6-10.

This was Sergeant Garcia's second consecutive visit to the conference. During the conference, he shook hands and spoke with Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo



Courtesy photo

**GENERAL MEETING - Tech. Sgt. Richard Garcia, 439th Mission Support Squadron, meets Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, former commander of ground forces in Iraq, during the the annual conference for the League of United Latin American Citizens.**

## Westover Highlights

Sanchez, former commander of ground forces in Iraq. The sergeant also devoted a portion of his time to telling high school juniors and seniors about the benefits of being a member of the Air Force Reserve. "I spoke about my military and civilian careers," he said. "I told the kids what the reserve has done for me."

Sergeant Garcia, who grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., lives in Springfield. In his civilian life, he is correctional supervisor with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

"I was totally honored to attend last year's conference," he said. "The second time was even better, and this year's conference marked LULAC's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It's a good experience just to go. You meet a lot of important people - like the surgeon general of the United States."

## Griffin worker's dedication earns 439th AW coin

A Griffin Services employee recently received a wing coin from Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander.

**David Blais** led an effort to replace an air conditioning coil in the air traffic control tower in late 2003.

"Dave Blais has been an unsung hero at Westover," said Jon Wyman, real property manager. "Dave's tenacity and continued attention to the problem kept it moving along and expedited completion of this critical repair." During some of the coldest weather on record at Westover, with wind chills down to 40 degrees below zero, Mr. Blais set up a rotating watch to provide 24-hour-a day coverage to prevent freeze-ups on heating equipment.

In addition, during the heat plant decentralization in 2003, he solved interface problems between the new energy plants and older remaining heating equipment.

## Transportation officer rolls up Westover career

**Robert LePage**, transportation accountable officer with the 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron, retired Sept. 3.

"My favorite memories of Westover were the people I worked with," Mr. LePage said. "Over the years I watched most of them

rightfully work their way to the top. Thirty years of 'can do' attitude got a lot done. It was cool to know that if AFRC or AMC wanted something done they came to Westover. My fondest memory was winning the Transportation Activity of the Year 1998 from 22nd Air Force and AFRC. My proudest memory was how our transportation people handled themselves after we lost our A76 bid and finished out the winter with our heads held high."

Mr. LePage was also a Westover C-130 crew chief from 1979 to 1981 and a propeller mechanic from 1981 to 1986.

## 42<sup>nd</sup> reservist wraps up quarter-century career

A 25-year Patriot Wing veteran recently retired from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron. **Senior Master Sgt. Albert Hayford** performed his last UTA on the Sept. 13 with the "Red Hats" squadron.

Sergeant Hayford served on many deployments with the squadron, including back-to-back ones to Uzbekistan, Charleston AFB, S.C., and to Dover AFB, Del., in late 2003 and early 2004.

Sergeant Hayford also served during the 42<sup>nd</sup>'s participation of the C-5 surge in the spring of 2003, when aerial porters moved more than 30,000,000 pounds of cargo through the base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He served as the original senior instructor for the 60K Tunner School at Westover, instructing more than 100 reservists from 20 units.

"Sergeant Hayford's legacy will live on through the Tunner School which he nurtured like a mother hen," said Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Westcott, 42<sup>nd</sup> APS operations superintendent. "Sergeant Hayford was a man who exemplified the 42<sup>nd</sup> motto, 'Pride and Professionalism,' the chief added. "He left our unit awaiting a presidential order to allow troops to serve past age 60."



**Robert LePage**



**David Blais**



**Sergeant Hayford**

# Reserve end strength going 'back to the future'

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of Defense is turning back the clock, raising Air Force Reserve Command's end-strength ceiling to the fiscal 1996 level.

The change is the result of the fiscal 2005 Defense Appropriations Act. President Bush signed the bill into law Aug. 5.

Under the defense bill, AFRC may have up to 76,100 reservists in the Selected Reserve next year. The 1996 ceiling was 76,138.

After the Persian Gulf War, Air Force Reserve troop levels declined steadily from a high of 84,539 in 1991 to a low of 73,160 in 1997. Levels in the late '90s fluctuated but continued to rise as the Air Force relied more on reservists to shoulder worldwide missions.

This year's end-strength ceiling is 75,800.

Next year's funds will pay for up to 74,200 traditional reservists and 1,900 fulltime members of the Active Guard and Reserve. The funding will allow 60 more traditional reservists and 240 more AGRs compared this year's end-strength cap.

The ceiling for fulltime air reserve technicians – people who serve as civil servants and reservists in the same job – will drop

from 9,991 in 2004 to 9,954 in 2005.

Funding to train, pay and care for the force will increase from an appropriations budget of \$3.47 billion in 2004 to \$3.69 billion for 2005.

AFRC's funding is part of the \$417 billion defense appropriations bill. The bill will fund the Department of Defense from Oct. 1, 2004, to Sept. 30, 2005.

Provisions of the bill include a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for service members and elimination of out-of-pocket housing expenses.

In other pay matters, Congress agreed to increase permanently the family separation allowance from \$100 to \$250 and the imminent danger pay from \$150 to \$225 per month.

Under the new reserve personnel appropriation, the Air Force Reserve will receive \$1.45 billion to cover pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, travel and other related expenses.

Another \$2.24 billion will go to operation and maintenance funds to train, organize and administer the command. O&M money pays for flying hours, depot maintenance, repair of facilities and equipment, travel and transportation, civilian pay, recruit-

ing, and communication, as well as procurement of services, supplies and equipment.

In 2004, the Reserve's RPA budget was nearly \$1.29 billion. Its O&M funding was \$2.18 billion.

For fiscal 2005, Congress added \$265 million to keep the 932nd Airlift Wing's flying operation going at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Funds will pay for three C-40 aircraft, wing operations and training, site activation, and reservists and full-time technicians.

The Air Force Reserve must wait for Congress to finalize two other defense bills for fiscal 2005.

House and Senate conferees must meet and reach agreement on the proposed fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act before Congress can submit the bill to the president for signature.

The other pending defense bill is the fiscal 2005 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which will pay for military construction projects across the services, including the Air Force Reserve. In 2004, the Reserve received \$62 million for major new construction projects and upgrades, unspecified minor projects, and planning and design. **(AFRC News Service)**

## Signs at base gates warn of stepped-up seatbelt enforcement

The signs at the two gates say it all, "seatbelt wear mandatory on Westover ARB," and now they are being backed up by a stepped up enforcement effort which can leave some people walking or bicycling to work.

As of Sept. 1, those who fail to wear seatbelts can lose their driving privileges on base and face additional punishment. Drivers are responsible for ensuring that all their passengers wear seatbelts.

Both security forces and safety specialists are enforcing the Westover seat belt policy with compliance checks. First offenses of those being observed not wearing their seatbelts will carry the punishment of 30 days loss of base driving privileges and a letter of counseling. A second offense will be six months loss of driving privileges and a letter of reprimand.

"The simple fact is that seatbelts are life savers. There is no question that people are needlessly killed and injured when they fail to wear seatbelts and assure that all passengers in their vehicle wear them," said Maj. Gary W. Cooke, wing safety officer. "One hundred percent seatbelt usage is required by the Air Force instructions. We're obligated to follow the AFI on seatbelts, just as we are obligated to follow any other AFI," he said.



photo by Gordon Newell

**AERIAL ATTACK** - A mockingbird (right) gets ready to attack a much larger red-tailed hawk that was perched upon a cupola atop the pavilion in the rear of wing headquarters in mid-July. The smaller bird kept up his relentless assault for about 15 minutes before the hawk grew weary of the game and flew away.





photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

**Staff Sgt. Richard English**

## Patriot People

**Name:** Richard English  
**Rank:** Staff sergeant  
**Age:** 32  
**Address:** Woburn, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron  
**Position:** Medical technician  
**Favorite food:** Pizza  
**Years of service:** Five  
**Favorite sport:** Football  
**Favorite hobby:** Yard work  
**Ideal vacation:** Las Vegas  
**Best way to relax:** With my family  
**Preferred entertainment:** Playing with my kids  
**Favorite hero:** Uniformed soldiers  
**Favorite music:** Rock  
**Favorite movie:** Shrek  
**Favorite aircraft:** Sopwith Camel  
**Pet peeve:** Not applicable  
**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** Spend it all in Las Vegas

### Promotions

#### Lieutenant colonel

Vito E. Addabbo  
 Patrick L. Cloutier  
 Robert C. Dorman  
 Jennifer Farrelly  
 Jeffrey F. Hancock  
 Adele Hill  
 Farris C. Hill  
 Christopher Kreig  
 Dana Packer  
 Nabil H. Raheb  
 Craig Tommila

#### PEP promotions

Master Sgt. Kimberly Babin

Tech. Sgt. Caroline Roy

#### *Air Force Reserve First Sergeant Academy graduates:*

Senior Master Sgt. McDonald Molina

Master Sgt. Michael Bellerose,  
 who also earned the Chief  
 Master Sgt. Eric E. Williams  
 Commandant Award

Master Sgt. Michael Wright

#### *NCO Leadership Development Program graduates:*

Technical sergeant  
 Andrew S. Biscoe  
 Paul Dias  
 Jeffrey A. Green  
 Shawn M. Harris  
 Brandon W. Ives

Craig M. Kline  
 Carlos A. Morales  
 Pablo E. Rodriguez  
 Darlene C. St. George  
 Joni M. Thomas

Staff sergeant  
 David A. Couture  
 Thomas Fuchs  
 Thamara Jean-Louis  
 Jason W. Reynolds

Derek W. Rogers  
 Joseph A. Sanctuary Jr.  
 Robert Q. Steele

Senior Airman Paul H. Driscoll

## Patriot Praises

### Awards and Decorations

#### Meritorious Service Medal

**Major**  
 Kenneth W. Dodd\*\*  
 Deborah A. Fuller  
 Elaine E. Tucci

**Captain**  
 Samir N. Dave'  
 Shawn V. Howard\*

**Master sergeant**  
 Robert J. Andreoli  
 William P. Hurley  
 Mark E. Philbrick  
 Timothy G. Williams

#### Air Force Commendation Medal

**Chief master sergeant**  
 James H. Lagasse  
 John F. Szewc\*

**Master sergeant**  
 Laray Deveaux\*\*

Blain D. Thomas\*\*

**Technical sergeant**  
 Thomas E. Cownern\*  
 Keith A. Latarski

**Staff Sgt. Michael**  
 G. Adduci

**Air Force**  
**Achievement Medal**

**Technical sergeant**  
 Theresa Fowler\*\*  
 Pedro A. Hilario  
 James A. Lacroix  
 Edward J. Lepsch\*\*  
 Edward O. Mathurin\*  
 Christopher J. Mackee  
 Michael J. O' Hearn  
 Joaquim H. Pedro\*  
 William P.A. Powers  
 Shawn M. Quigley\*\*  
 Gary J. Surozenski  
 Daniel J. Vankruiningen  
 Joseph H. Visser\*\*

Michael L. Vogt  
 Steven J. Wetmore  
 Mark E. Willette\*\*

**Staff sergeant**  
 Scott M. Beudoin\*  
 Timothy R. Bishins\*  
 Bryan D. Creamer  
 Joan K. Lafleur\*\*  
 Michael Menta Jr.  
 Roland A. Snow  
 John J. Vescovi\*

**Senior airman**  
 Patrick J. Carlin  
 Christopher P. Harry  
 Kevin P. Deyo  
 Todd J. Fitch  
 William T. Grassetti\*  
 Kevin D. O'Leary  
 David S. Perry\*

Airman Shane L. Kouflie

\* First oak leaf cluster  
 \*\* Second oak leaf cluster

# Donated book is time capsule of old Westover

Article and photo

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Before it was an air reserve base, before it was a SAC base, Westover was a Military Air Transport Service (MATs) base, headquarters of the service's Atlantic Division. A bit of the history of those days returned to Westover with the recent donation of an 88-page "yearbook" published for the Westover airmen of 1954.

The book was donated by James B. Scerbra of Alabama, who served as an 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force airman first class here in the 1950s. It came here by a convoluted route.

The historical book was recently purchased on the Internet by Scerbra's son, Jack, who was born in the Westover Hospital. The younger Scerbra had successfully bid against Master Sgt. Stephen A. Perreault, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Mark Kicza of Easthampton. Mr. Kicza was hoping to buy the book for his father, Peter Kicza, who served here between 1948 and 1952. Sergeant Perreault started a conversation with the Scerbras, who lent the book to Perreault and the Kiczas. When the Scerbras decided to donate the book, they asked the Kiczas to bring it here.

The book cover features a C-118 Liftmaster, workhorse of Westover's 1600<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing. The wing also flew the C-124 Globemaster II. Also here was the Navy's Air Transport Squadron 6 which flew the Douglas R6D-1 Skyray.

The book boasts that Westover was "often called the 'Grand Central Terminal of the Air Force'....It is not unusual for 15,000 persons to pass through Westover to and from Europe, Africa and the near East in one month. Now with the Arctic added to the defense ar-



**THOSE WERE THE DAYS - Master Sgt. Stephen Perreault takes a moment with Mark Kicza (left) and his father, Peter Kicza, to page through the history of Westover in a 1954 "yearbook" of the base.**

eas this figure continues to soar."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, serving his second year in office, has a place of honor in the book. His picture was taken during a visit to Westover. Judging from the series of pictures, parades and reviews were a common event on the ellipse. The flag pole on the ellipse was flanked by a cannon mounted on two large spoked wheels.

Those were the days when the orderly room, mail room and supply room clerks were members of the 5<sup>th</sup> WAF (Women's Air Force) Squadron. WAF members ate in their own dining facility.

Air Force uniforms included khakis with ties inserted in the shirt above the middle button. Officers and enlisted were still wearing the "Ike jacket," a short blouse which had become popular in World War II.

White clapboard buildings were common around base. The air police worked

out of Air Police Headquarters Building, which was a white clapboard building, just as was the main exchange (the PX) and the chapel. The only building in that style still standing is the former Base Headquarters, now Bldg. 1100, now covered in aluminum siding. It houses the family support center and chaplain's office.

Westover was large enough to have its own base courtroom, base laundry and football team. Energy was provided by coal yards on base. Airmen were fed from a perishable warehouse, which housed rows of hanging beef. The 1600<sup>th</sup> Food Service Squadron included a meat shop and pastry shop.

Movies were shown at the Base Theater, which stands today as the extensively remodeled Westover Conference Center.

Westover units included the 7<sup>th</sup> Air Postal Squadron, 1600<sup>th</sup> Motor Vehicle Squadron and 9<sup>th</sup> Weather Group.

The 730<sup>th</sup> Air Force Band was equipped with French horns, tubas, trombones and tenor horns. The 1600<sup>th</sup> Air Police Squadron worked with the Springfield Police to perform Town Patrol. The uniform included an Air Police arm band, Sam Brown Belt, white hat and night stick. The MATS units left Westover in 1954.

The 4050<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing brought its KC-97 tankers in April 1955 as the SAC era began, followed by the arrival of the B-52C Stratofortresses in December 1956. Westover became the nation's largest Reserve base in 1974 upon the activation of the 439<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, which flew the C-123 Provider and C-130 Hercules under the legendary Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles.

**PATRIOT**

[www.afrc.af.mil/439aw](http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw)

October UTA schedule

A UTA Oct. 2-3

B UTA Oct. 16-17



439<sup>th</sup> AW/PA  
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Published monthly for Patriots like 2nd Lt. Robert Sinclair, Queens, N.Y., and 2,324 reservists of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.